

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /119 W
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P R 242314Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6771
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2364

DEPT PASS STR

GENEVA FOR USMTN

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS : ETRD MTN BR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR WOLFF AND MEETING OF US-BRAZIL SUBGROUP
ON TRADE

REF: A. STATE 071853, B. GENEVA 4257, C. BRASILIA 1671

1. ON MARCH 22, ECON-COMM COUNSELOR CALLED ON MINISTER PROENCA ROSA CHIEF, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT) TO DISCUSS AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S VISIT AND THE MEETING OF THE SUBGROUP ON TADE. COUNSELOR PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON REFTEL A. MINISTER BOTAFOGO GONCALVES (CHIEF, COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION) PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

2. PROENCA ROSA SAID AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S VISIT WAS MOST WELCOME TO THE GOB. HE WOULD CONSULT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR
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OFFICIALS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR PREFERENCES ON DATES. (NOTE THAT MAY FIRST IS BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY.) PROENCA ROSA SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GIVE AN ANSWER NEXT WEEK. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE THE WEEK OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT AND IN AN ASIDE WONDERED WHETHER THE QUESTION OF DATES WOULD NOT BE AGREED AT HIGHER LEVELS DURING THE VISIT.

3. CONCERNING A PRELIMINARY LOWER/LEVEL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE SUBGROUP, PROENCA ROSA AND BOTAFOGO SEEMED INTERESTED BUT DID NOT PRESS FOR IT. PROENCA ROSA NOTED THAT THE GOB WAS SENDING AN INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP TO GENEVA, APRIL 10-21, FOR TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE MAJOR MTN PARTICIPANTS (REFTEL B, PARA 4); VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE GOB'S SENIOR COMMERCIAL POLICY EXPERTS WOULD BE IN GENEVA DURING THAT PERIOD. FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN, THE GOB HAD SET ASIDE THE WEEK OF APRIL 23 FOR A COMPREHENSIVE IN-HOUSE REVIEW OF THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

4. PROENCA ROSA AND BOTAFOGO OFFERED TWO SCENARIOS FOR FITTING THE PRELIMINARY TALKS INTO THE SCHEDULE. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO HOLD THE LOWER-LEVEL MEETING IN GENEVA SINCE ALL THE BRAZILIAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE THERE. THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS WOULD THEN BE FED INTO THE GO'S IN-HOUSE REVIEW PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S VISIT. THE OTHER POSSIBILITY WAS TO SCHEDULE A PREPARATORY MEETING IN BRASILIA THE WEEK OF MAY QN AND TO RE-SCHEDULE AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S VISIT AND THE SUBGROUP MEETING FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 7. (IN A SIDE COMMENT, PROENCA ROSA SAID HE RECOGNIZED AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S SCHEDULE MUST BE VERY CROWDED AND ASKED WHETHER CHANGING THE DATE BY A WEEK WOULD NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES.)

5. COMMENT: THE SUBGROUP ON TRADE COMES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE US-BRAZIL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND THE DRAFT PRESS COMMUNIQUE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTAINS LANGUAGE ON THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULTATIONS DURING THE FINAL STAGES OF THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE MTN WILL BE TOUCHED UPON IN THE PRSIDENT'S SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL IN WHICH KEY ECONOMIC MINISTERS--SIMONSEN AND REIS VELLOSO--WILL PARTICIPATE. THE BRAZILIAN SIDE THUS WILL SEE--AND PUBLICLY PRESENT--THE MEETING OF THE SUBGROUP AS A FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE (A) WHETHER WASHINGTON WISHES TO PURSUE LOWER-LEVEL MEETING, AND (B) IF SO, PREFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SCENARIOS.

7. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT REQUESTED REFTEL A WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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